

break o'day catchment risk group

4 Bayview Avenue, Binalong Bay 7216

ph. 03 6376 8351 fax: 03 6376 8311

Email: sthelensmedc@vision.net.au

Jim Wilson
Operations Manager, NE Plantations
Gunns
Launceston

3-3-2009

Dear Jim,

Re: Meeting of 25-2-09: Seaview harvesting and replanting

Thank you for taking the time to meet with Jim Harris and myself on Wednesday to discuss the Forest Practices Plan prepared for Seaview (George River catchment).

May I now ask that you confirm the following, which is a summary of my understanding of the information given to Jim and myself:

1. That Gunns no longer undertakes site pesticide monitoring but relies on the DPWI pesticide monitoring and river catchment program as its compliance monitoring program.
2. That you now are aware of the pesticide detections in the DPIW flood monitoring programme for the George River taken at the water intake pipe for the township of St. Helens. This program started in January 2005, and the detections of 2,4-D, MCPA and metsulfuron-methyl were in 2007 and 2008.
3. That you are now aware of the limitations of the flood monitoring program, the problems being as listed:
 - (a) sampling occurs at the very bottom of the catchment, many kilometres away from the actual pesticide application.
 - (b) there is no linkage of sampling to pesticide use and time of application.
 - (c) automatic samplers are generally set too high in the river to capture first flush.
 - (d) automatic samplers have only 12 bottles to sample per event.
 - (e) automatic samplers often are not deployed.
 - (f) results are not given until 4 to 6 weeks after sampling occurs.
4. That you are unable to provide to water users a list of the pesticides to be used during the re-establishment and management of Seaview.
5. That you think it is reasonable that water users study publicly available documentation (such as the APVMA website) to provide themselves with the information as to what pesticides may be used by the plantation industry in their drinking water catchment and that you also feel that this is an appropriate way to deal with other industries that use water in the catchment such as agriculture and aquaculture industries.
6. That you will confirm that the pesticides listed for hardwood plantations as detailed in the Tasmanian River Catchment Water Quality Initiative (2008) are the pesticides that Gunns may use at Seaview, and if there are any others that need to be added to this list.
7. That you plan to re-establish the plantation using *E.nitens* as a monoculture.

8. That you will abide by the Forest Practices Code and will notify only immediate neighbours as to which pesticides will be used and when, only immediately prior to aerial spray events.
9. That you had met with Mayor Legge and the General Manager, Tony Walker, the week prior to our meeting to discuss some of these issues.
10. That you are now aware of the raw drinking water contamination of the South George river by simazine when Seaview was established (1994) and the public outcry at this time regarding triazine use and aerially spraying of pesticides in water catchments. BODC at this time also publically denounced the use of toxic, persistent pesticides in water catchments and their potential for movement off-target (including groundwater contamination) especially when applied by aerially spraying.

We found the meeting instructive and thank you again for your time in meeting with us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Alison Bleaney Sec - BODCRG